

Date: September 29, 2005

To: Chairman Randolph, and Commissioners Blair, Downey, Huguenin and Remy

From: Mark Krausse, Executive Director

This is a summary of administrative activity and other matters since the report sent to you prior to the last Commission meeting.

A. PERSONNEL & BUDGET

The Enforcement Division welcomed back two former Commission employees in September to work as Enforcement Counsel: Sukha Ram (formerly Margaret) Figeroid, previously a Political Reform Consultant, who left the Commission after receiving her law degree to work for the Downey Brand law firm. Amanda Saxton, a former attorney at Legislative Counsel, served as an Enforcement Counsel in 2001. We are lucky to have these two experienced attorneys and welcome them back.

Also hired in the Enforcement Division in September were Investigators Elaine Olmos-Flores, Rudy Garza, and Catherine Gallardo. Elaine comes to us from the California State Lottery, Rudy from the U.S. Department of Labor, and Catherine from her own investigative business, prior to which she was an investigator with the Alameda County Public Defender. All have vast investigative backgrounds and are great additions to our FPPC family.

By the October meeting, you should see Kelly Nelson taking minutes and performing the other duties of the Commission Assistant. Kelly comes to us from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and, prior to that, the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Finally, Leah Yadon, one of the friendly voices you hear when you call the Commission, was promoted to Technical Assistant II due to her good work in the recent past.

In budget matters, we have submitted a budget change proposal (BCP) to the Department of Finance requesting that the Commission's funding be increased to return it to 1991 staffing level of 90 positions—a fifty-percent increase over our existing staffing level. This would require an additional \$1.27 million of funding. In the alternative, we have asked that our budget be restored to the funding level provided three years ago—a restoration of approximately \$600,000. Our request documented the many unfunded statutory mandates that have been imposed by the Legislature over the years. While it is not highly likely that either of these requests will be granted this year, our strategy is to begin making the case in order that some additional funding be secured when revenues are available.

Also on the budget, I have attached a breakdown of the Commission's 2005-2006 spending plan to this report. For summary purposes, I provide the following table:

TOTAL COMMISSION BUDGET	\$6,337,000	100%
<u>PERSONAL SERVICES</u>	\$5,568,000	88%
Salaries and Wages	\$4,269,000	67%
Staff Benefits	1,299,000	21%
<u>OPERATING EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT</u>	\$769,000	12%
Facilities operation (lease of 428 J Street)	490,000	8%
Other operating and equipment expenses	279,000	4%

B. STAFF PROJECTS

Chairman Randolph served on two panel presentations in September: an ethics presentation for the Latino Caucus Institute attended by approximately 40 local elected officials, and a discussion of lobbyist regulation at the annual meeting of the state lobbyists' trade association, the Institute for Governmental Advocates.

The Communications Office published and distributed the fall issue of the FPPC Bulletin, is drafting responses to surveys from the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws, and is developing a prototype web page for posting recent Commission advice letters on our website.

The Technical Assistance Division's Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Jones conducted filing officer outreach visits in Cotati and Windsor, and PRC II Trish Mayer presented a campaign seminar in Livermore.

C. APPROVAL OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODES/AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to Government Code section 87300 and Commission regulation 18750.1, state and multi-county agencies seeking to adopt or substantively amend a conflict-of-interest code must submit the proposed code to the Commission for review and approval. The Technical Assistance Division has reviewed and, since the last agenda, I have approved the following conflict-of-interest codes:

California Community Colleges
California County Tobacco Securitization Agency
East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Insurance, California Department of

D. FINDINGS OF PROBABLE CAUSE

There were none this month.

E. REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF COMMITTEE TERMINATION

Commission regulation 18404.1 requires that state-candidate-controlled committees organized for elective state office be terminated pursuant to specified deadlines. Pursuant to the regulation, the following requests for extension of those termination deadlines were submitted to the Executive Director.

Vargas 2000 Committee (990989) A request to reopen the committee was granted until March 1, 2006.

Friends of Cruz Bustamente (1257245) A request for extension was granted until April 7, 2006.

Russ Bogh for Assembly 2000 (983414) A request for extension was granted until April 1, 2006.

Consumers for Tom Umberg (1235879) A request for extension was granted until March 5, 2006.

Team Noel 1998 Committee (980051) A request for extension was granted until April 1, 2006.